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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
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ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /111 W
----------046309 250606Z /10
O 250552Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0955
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01642

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, WA
SUBJECT: ORGANIZATION OF THE SPECIAL GA SESSION

1. AS THE OPENING DAY (APRIL 24) OF THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA (SEPTEL) PROGRESSED, THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SESSION BECAME SOMEWHAT CLEARER ALTHOUGH BY NO MEANS CERTAIN. THERE WILL BE A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WHOSE TASK WILL BE TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO IT. THE BASIC DOCUMENT FOR THE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION WOULD BE THE UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA'S
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DRAFT DECLARATION ON NAMIBIA AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON NAMIBIA (DATAFAXED 4/21 TO IO/UNP, NILES AND CIRCULATED 4/24 AS UNGA DOCUMENT A/S-9/7). THERE MIGHT ALSO BE A WORKING GROUP FORMED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF REVIEWING AND POSSIBLY REVISING THIS BASIC DOCUMENT.

2. THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WILL BE CHAIRED BY

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AMBASSADOR KONIE, CHAIRMAN OF THE UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA,
AND IT WILL BEGIN ITS WORK APRIL 25 WITH THE
ELECTION OF A BUREAU. IN ADDITION TO CHAIRMAN, THE
BUREAU IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPOSED OF: A RAPPORTEUR
(PROBABLY ROMANIA) AND FOUR VICE-CHAIRMEN
(PROBABLY INDIA, MEXICO, ALGERIA, AND A REPRESENTA-
TIVE OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS (WEO) GROUP
EITHER FINLAND, AUSTRALIA, OR IRELAND). THE WEO GROUP
WILL SELECT ITS CANDIDATE TOMORROW. THROUGHOUT THE
DAY ONLY FINLAND AND AUSTRALIA WERE MENTIONED AS POS-
SIBILITIES, WITH FINLAND CLEARLY THE MORE RELUCTANT OF
THE TWO; AT THE DAY'S END, HOWEVER, IRELAND MADE ITS
INTEREST KNOWN. THE CONTACT GROUP
IS UNANIMOUS IN PREFERRING AUSTRALIA AND IS QUIETLY
WORKING FOR ITS SELECTION.

3. IN A FORMAL NOTE CIRCULATED LATE IN THE DAY AS UNGA
PROVISIONAL DOCUMENT A/S-9/AC.1/1, AMBASSADOR KONIE
SUGGESTED POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORKING GROUP DES-
CRIBED PARA 1 ABOVE, TO BE COMPOSED OF 30 MEMBER STATES:
THE 25 MEMBERS OF THE UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA AND FIVE
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS REPRESENTING EACH OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS.
THE NOTE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE WHOLE WHO WISHED TO DO SO WOULD ALSO BE FREE
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKING GROUP, AS THE GROUP SHOULD
BE CONSTITUTED AS AN OPEN-ENDED WORKING FORUM".
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4. THE WEO GROUP MET PM APRIL 24 TO DISCUSS THE PRO-
POSED ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION. THE WEO'S SUPPORTED
THE IDEA OF AN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP (SINCE THAT
WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATER WEO PARTICIPATION
THAN WOULD A CLOSED GROUP) BUT ALSO AGREED ON TWO
RESERVATIONS ON THE WORKING GROUP'S ORGANIZATION: (A) THE
WEO GROUP WAS DISTURBED BY THE SUGGESTION THAT THE FORMAL
NUCLEUS OF THE WORKING GROUP WOULD BE THE UN COUNCIL FOR
NAMIBIA. THE GENERAL SENTIMENT WAS THAT SINCE THE
COUNCIL HAD WRITTEN THE DRAFT DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME
OF ACTION, IT MADE LITTLE SENSE TO HAVE THE COUNCIL BE
PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR REFINING IT; AND, (B) THE
WEO GROUP WAS CONCERNED ABOUT TALK THAT AMBASSADOR KONIE
FAVORED ALGERIA TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE WORKING
GROUP. THIS WAS SEEN AS AN UNBALANCED CHOICE.

5. THE WEO GROUP, THEREFORE, AGREED THAT ITS CURRENT
CHAIRMAN, AMBASSADOR LEPRETTE OF FRANCE (ACCOMPANIED BY
AMBASSADORS PASTINEN OF FINLAND, VINCI OF ITALY, HARRY
OF AUSTRALIA, AND SUNDBERG OF SWEDEN) MIGHT TALK IN-
FORMALLY WITH UNGA PRESIDENT MOJSOV AND DISCREETLY MAKE

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TWO PROPOSALS: (A) THAT A WORKING GROUP OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATELY COMPOSED OF SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS; AND (B) IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IS BEING CHAIRED BY AN AFRICAN, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR THE WORKING GROUP TO BE CHAIRED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF ANOTHER REGIONAL GROUP. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT AFTER TALKING WITH MOJSOV, THE ABOVE AMBASSADORS SHOULD DISCUSS THE SAME CONCERNS WITH AMBASSADOR KONIE.

6. WHEN LEPRETTE AND COLLEAGUES SPOKE LATER WITH MOJSOV, HE AGREED ON BOTH POINTS, SUGGESTING THAT ONE OF THE OTHER VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE COMMITTEE (PER-

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

HAPS INDIA) MIGHT BETTER CHAIR THE WORKING GROUP. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IF THE COMPOSITION OF THE NUCLEUS OF THE WORKING GROUP WAS A SOURCE OF CONCERN, PERHAPS THE IDEA OF A WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE DROPPED. AMBASSADOR

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KONIE SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED AMBASSADOR LEPRETTE'S SUG-
GESTIONS OPEN-MINDEDLY BUT REPORTEDLY WAS PREOCCUPIED
WITH HER OWN BELIEF THAT PERHAPS THE WORKING GROUP
WAS NOT NEEDED.

7. COMMENT. WE SHALL SEE WHAT DEVELOPS TOMORROW.
AN EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION BY THE
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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MAY PROVE UNWIELDY
BUT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO A WORKING GROUP, DEPENDING
ON THE CHOICE OF THE WORKING GROUP'S CHAIRMAN
AND ITS COMPOSITION. END COMMENT. YOUNG

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